

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claim 12 is amended by the present amendment. Claim 12 is amended to correct a minor informality. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,587,836 to Ahlberg et al. (hereinafter “Ahlberg”); and Claims 1-11 and 14-21 were allowed. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter.

In response to the rejection based on Ahlberg, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 12 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

As depicted in an exemplary embodiment in Figs. 1 and 5 of the originally filed specification, amended independent Claim 12 relates to a first terminal (e.g., service utilizing terminal 40) for accessing a service (e.g., service B). The first terminal includes a communications interface (e.g., communication device 42) configured to exchange data with a second terminal (e.g., authentication requesting terminal 30) and a verifying system (e.g., service verifying system 10). The communications interface of the first terminal is also configured to receive an authorization message (e.g., “permission response”) indicating that the first terminal is authorized to access the service, and to transmit a message for utilization of the service based on the received authentication message (e.g., see steps S32-S38 of Fig. 5). The message for utilization is based on a message received by the second terminal indicating that the first terminal is authorized to access the service.

Turning to the applied reference, Ahlberg describes an Internet-based order entry and administration system for ordering and fulfilling a suite of Web enabled applications.¹

Ahlberg, however, fails to teach or suggest receiving, from the second terminal, an authorization message indicating that the first terminal is authorized to access the service; and transmitting, to the verifying system, a message for utilization of the service based on the received authentication message, as recited in independent Claim 12.

In addressing the previously presented arguments directed to the above noted claimed features, the outstanding Official Action cites col. 20 line 12-col. 21, line 35 of Ahlberg and asserts that “a user login and authentication process is taught by which a user interface sends an authentication request to a server through a second firewall interface, and receives an authorization message through a firewall server allowing the user access to a service running on a different server.” Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion, and submit that the cited portion of Ahlberg fails to teach or suggest the above noted features recited in independent Claim 12.

This cited portion of Ahlberg describes a customer login procedure by which a client enters a username and password which are submitted directly to the StarOE server 202. The StarOE server then determines whether the client is authorized to access the system, and if so, accesses the client’s profile to determine if the profile includes an application entitlement list. Based on the information included in the application entitlement list, access to various applications and back-end application servers 208 may be provided to the user.

Therefore, Ahlberg describes that the client (e.g. first terminal) gains direct access to services by being authenticated at the StarOE server (e.g., verifying system), and fails to teach or suggest that a second terminal is involved in this verification process. The outstanding Official Action appears to identify and attempt to remedy this deficiency by

¹ Ahlberg, Abstract.

asserting that “a user interface sends an authentication request to a server through a second firewall interface, an receives an authorization message through a firewall server.” However, the cited portion of Ahlberg fails to teach or suggest the use of firewall servers, whatsoever, and describes that the client is directly authenticated to access applications by logging directly into the verification system (e.g. StarOE server 202). Moreover, even if a firewall were to exist in Ahlberg’s system, Applicants respectfully submit that a firewall server could not fairly be construed as a “terminal” in the context of the present claims.

Further, Ahlberg merely describes that the StarOE server 202 transmits an available service list to a web browser of a client 20. Thus, the client terminal uses a service by the enterprise and the back-end server is regarded as part of the enterprise. In contrast, according to the present invention, the second terminal does not provide a service, but the first terminal directly receives a service from the verifying system. Ahlberg fails to teach or suggest this claimed feature.

Therefore, Ahlberg fails to teach or suggest a first terminal for accessing a service, the terminal including a “communications interface configured to receive, from the second terminal, an authorization message indicating that the first terminal is authorized to access the service,” and “the communications interface configured to transmit, to the verifying system, a message for utilization of the service based on the received authentication message,” as recited in independent Claim 12.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 12 (and Claim 13 that depends therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

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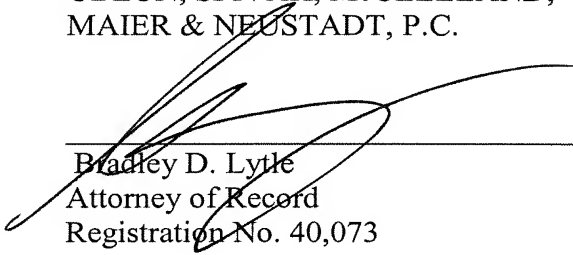
Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the forgoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-21 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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